Reports on the presence of pesticides in the soft drinks of certain brands

*432. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports that appeared in leading news papers about the presence of pesticides in the soft drinks of certain brands as revealed by the Center for Science and Environment;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government would conduct any test periodically on food products and beverages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) (a) to (d) the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released a report on 2.8.2006 entitled "Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks."

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee on 4.8.2006 to review the CSE Report including the methodology adopted by CSE. The conclusion of the Expert Committee is that the report of CSE does not provide conclusive evidence for presence of different pesticides in the concentration reported. The specific observations of the Committee are that:-

- The report does not provide details required for the confirmatory interpretation of quantum results.
- The residue data reported based on GC-Mass confirmation is inconclusive.
- The prevalence of different isomers of HCH (Hexa chloro cyclohexane) are in contradiction to their biological nature. Further, no confirmatory evidence are provided to support the result as per normal practice.
- Malathion undergoes hydrolysis in acidic medium of soft drinks. Hence, its residue in such a concentration is technically unlikely.

Further, GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Malathion.

- Heptachlor is banned in the country from 1996. Hence, its presence in such concentration is unlikely. Further, GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Heptachlor.
- Chlorpyrifos the mass fragmentation pattern of standard (retention time of 19.36 minutes) and sample (retention time 18.54 minutes) points towards presence of Chlorpyrifos residues in the sample. However, retention time of both do not match.

In view of the above inconsistencies, CSE has been asked to provide further data.

The standard and other regulatory provisions for checking the quality of carbonated water has been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. Provision already exists for drawing regular samples of food products from the manufacturers, retailers etc. under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. This provision is implemented by State/UT Governments who draw regular samples of various food products and take appropriate action under PFA Rules, 1955, if the samples are found not conforming with the standards under PFA Rules, 1955.

Running luxury train through Orissa

*433. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote public-private partnership to usher in an area of luxurious train travel and the first luxe-locomotive to chug out would be from the Oberoi Group of Hotels;

(b) if so, the details of this luxury train and the areas through which it would traverse;

(c) whether Government propose to run such a train traversing through heritage Orissa State, a hub of tourism, to promote tourism in this backward State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?